

**RIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of Meeting held on Weds 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Powley (Chairman), Veall, Ike, Waterhouse, Roome, Richards and Lees.

In addition, Mr D Johnson

- 1 **Apologies:** None
- 2 **Declaration of Interests and Dispensations:** None
- 3 **Minutes of the last Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014:** Accepted as read. Proposed by Councillor Ike, seconded by Councillor Richards. Minutes approved and signed and dated by Chairman
- 4 **Matters arising:**
  - Leicestershire Fire and Rescue; Councillor's individual comments submitted by deadline date, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 in line with request
  - Village grass cutting; the Clerk advised that he had informed RCC of the decision taken at the previous council meeting to continue with the existing grass cutting contract with RCC and confirmation had been received back to this effect
  - Vehicular traffic along Green Lane; nothing further to report
- 5 **Correspondence:**
  - Register of Electors; the Clerk advised he had received from RCC the latest Register updated as of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014
  - Notice from RCC advertising an Open Event taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015 offering advice to prospective new Parish and County Councillor candidates
  - Energy Action for Rutland; latest promotional literature received offering advice on energy bills. Contact the Clerk if further information required
  - RCC Conduct Committee; Agenda for 16<sup>th</sup> February meeting with the Clerk together with accompanying papers

- The Parish Briefing ó January edition posted on Notice Board
- Parish Council Forum ó Minutes of meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 received. Main topics covered: Health Report (NHS East Leics and Rutland Clinical Commisioning Group), Dog Fouling, Care Act Consultation and Awareness Briefing and Budget 2015/16.
- Promotional literature from Glasdon.com advertising products for sale for Local Councils; street furniture, waste bins etc. More information available from the Clerk.
- CGD Contractors Ltd; promotional literature received advertising this company's services in the area of countryside groundcare and drainage. More information available from the Clerk.
- Healthwatch Leicestershire; notice received offering winter health advice to residents and the offer to attend Wellbeing Fairs organised in Loughborough and market Harborough.

## 6 **Planning:**

- Ref 2014/1094/CAT Reduce heights of 1 No. Ash tree and 1 No. Holly tree at Noel Cottage, 12, Main Street LE15 9AU
- Ref 2015/0093/CAT Remove side branch of 1 No. Sycamore tree between 1 Church Lane and 2 Main Street

Both of the above planning applications were approved by the Parish Council

- The Clerk advised that he had received notification from RCC informing the Parish Council that the planning application for the previously approved repairs to the roof areas of the Parish Church, St Mary Magdelene and St Andre, Main Street had been withdrawn.

## 7 **Finance;**

- Bank Balances as of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 stood at £1219.30 in the Business Account and £1224.01 in the Community Account, and the book of accounts for the current year is marked up to date
- Precept 2015/16; the Clerk advised that following agreement of the budget at the previous meeting our precept for the coming year had been submitted on time to RCC and receipt acknowledged
- Approval sought of invoice from RCC for £154.75 inclusive of VAT for the emergency replacement of a grit bin damaged by unknown vehicle impact at the junction of East Lane and Main Street. Proposed by Councillor Roome, seconded by Councillor Ike and unanimously approved

- Retrospective approval sought of invoice from Community Heartbeat for £100.00 towards the annual maintenance cost of the village defibrillator. This item had already received previous budget approval for the current year and payment already made on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Proposed by Councillor Roome, seconded by Councillor Waterhouse and unanimously approved.

## 8 **Vehicles being driven over the Village Green**

Councillor Waterhouse advised Council that concern had been expressed by a resident about the practice of some people driving over the village green in Top Road to access the post box without exiting their vehicles. Damage was being caused to the green area as well as access being gained via a private driveway off the top of East Lane.

Council agreed that this was an unacceptable practice and that it should be stopped. However, it was difficult to see what preventative action could be taken without moving the post box. It was agreed that perhaps a more suitable location for the post box might be closer to or attached to the bus shelter on Top Road. Clerk to investigate and to report back to the May meeting. Councillor Waterhouse to advise the resident who raised the matter of Council's deliberations.

## 9. **Risk Management Audit including the DPA**

Councillor Richards presented the latest draft of his Risk Management Audit. It is based on a template already in existence and appears to be quite relevant to a Parish Council of our size. Council discussed the proposals and agreed this document needed to be continually tested, reviewed and where appropriate updated. It was agreed to periodically bring this forward to future Council Meetings. The report was proposed by Councillor Roome, seconded by Councillor Ike and unanimously approved.

The Clerk then raised the question of whether or not the Parish Council are required to sign up to the Data Protection Act Requirements. The matter was raised some years ago and it was decided then after a self-assessment survey that there was no requirement to register. However, some uncertainty still exists. Agreed the Clerk would seek professional/legal advice and report back to the May meeting.

## 10 **Pensions and Auto Enrolment**

The Clerk had advised Council at previous meetings of the impending deadline date for the Council to consider auto enrolment as required by the new pension regulations coming into effect later in the year.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had sought advice from the LRALC who in turn had referred it to the NALC Legal Dept for an opinion. The issue arose over whether or not our Parish Council paid for any form of employment or engaged volunteers, who are

regarded as employees. We were able to confirm that the Council had no paid employees nor volunteers and as such legal opinion confirmed we are not required to auto enrol under the new regulations. Council should be aware for the future that should our position change we are legally required to offer a pension facility to any employee/volunteer (whether or not they take it up). At such time Council would then need to enrol.

#### **11 Parish Council Elections, May 2015**

The Chairman, Councillor Powley, informed Council that he would be standing down at the May meeting both as Chairman of the Parish Council as well as Councillor. He felt it was the right time after some 28 years involvement. He thanked Councillors past and present for their help and support and specifically also those who had undertaken the role of clerk during his years as Chairman. Appreciation and thanks were expressed from the floor.

Additionally, Councillor Veall also expressed her intention to stand down at the May meeting and would not be seeking re-election. Councillor Veall has been involved with the Parish Council for well over 30 years and over that period has also held a number of officer roles on the Parish Council in addition to her role as Councillor. Much appreciation and thanks were afforded Councillor Veall for her dedication and hard work over a long period of time.

The five remaining Councillors will also be standing down this year but will offer themselves for re-election on 7<sup>th</sup> May

#### **12 Any Other Business**

(i) The Chairman advised that he had received an invitation to attend an 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

celebration of Magna Carta taking place in Peterborough Cathedral on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. He is unable to attend and asked if any other Councillor wished to go in his place to please contact him outside of the meeting

(ii) Concerns were expressed about the construction of the new garden wall at the Old Noel Arms and whether or not its actual siting and impact on the Public Right of Way where in accordance with the planning documents approved by the Parish Council and RCC in 2014. Councillor Richards stated he had visited the site and spoken with the owner, Simon Powell. Mr Powell had subsequently prepared additional notes supporting the planning application and which have subsequently been circulated to all Councillors. Council agreed that clarification was needed and the Clerk was asked to contact RCC Planning Dept to seek further guidance.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.01pm.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Weds 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall  
and followed by the Annual Parish Meeting

Chris Lees  
Clerk  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Signed í í í í í í í í í í í í  
Chairman  
Date í í í í í í í í í í í í